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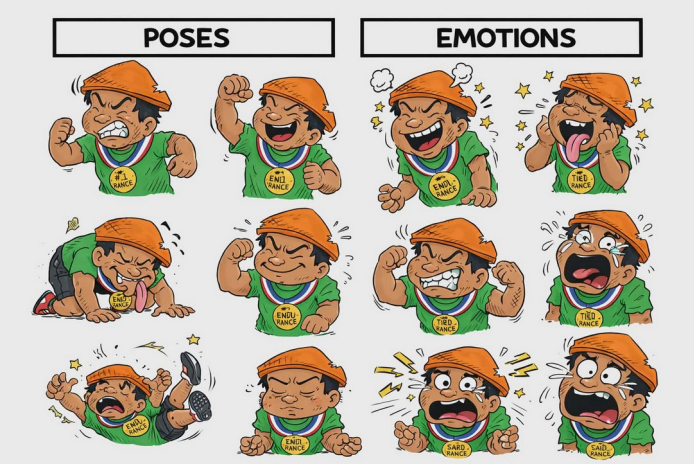
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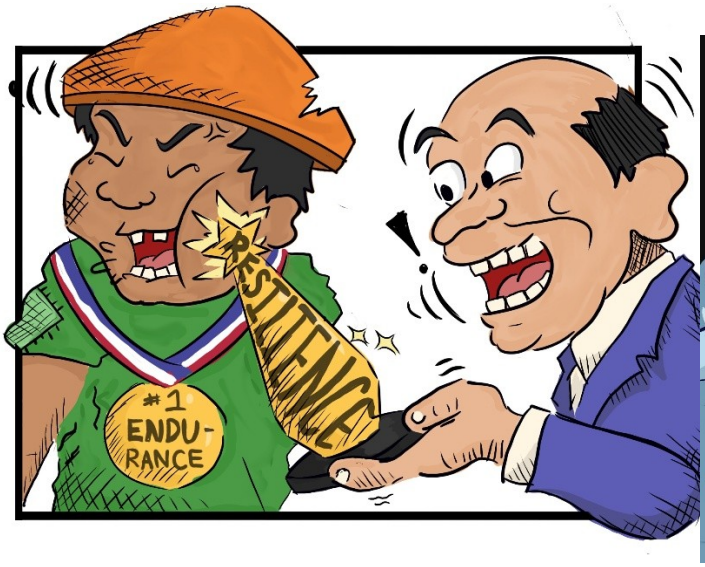
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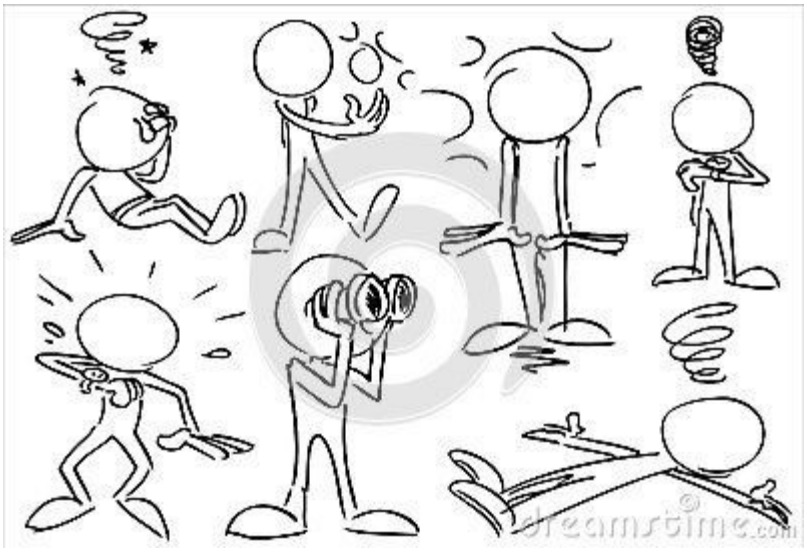

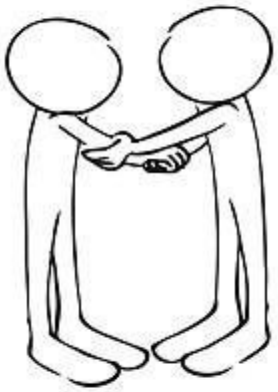

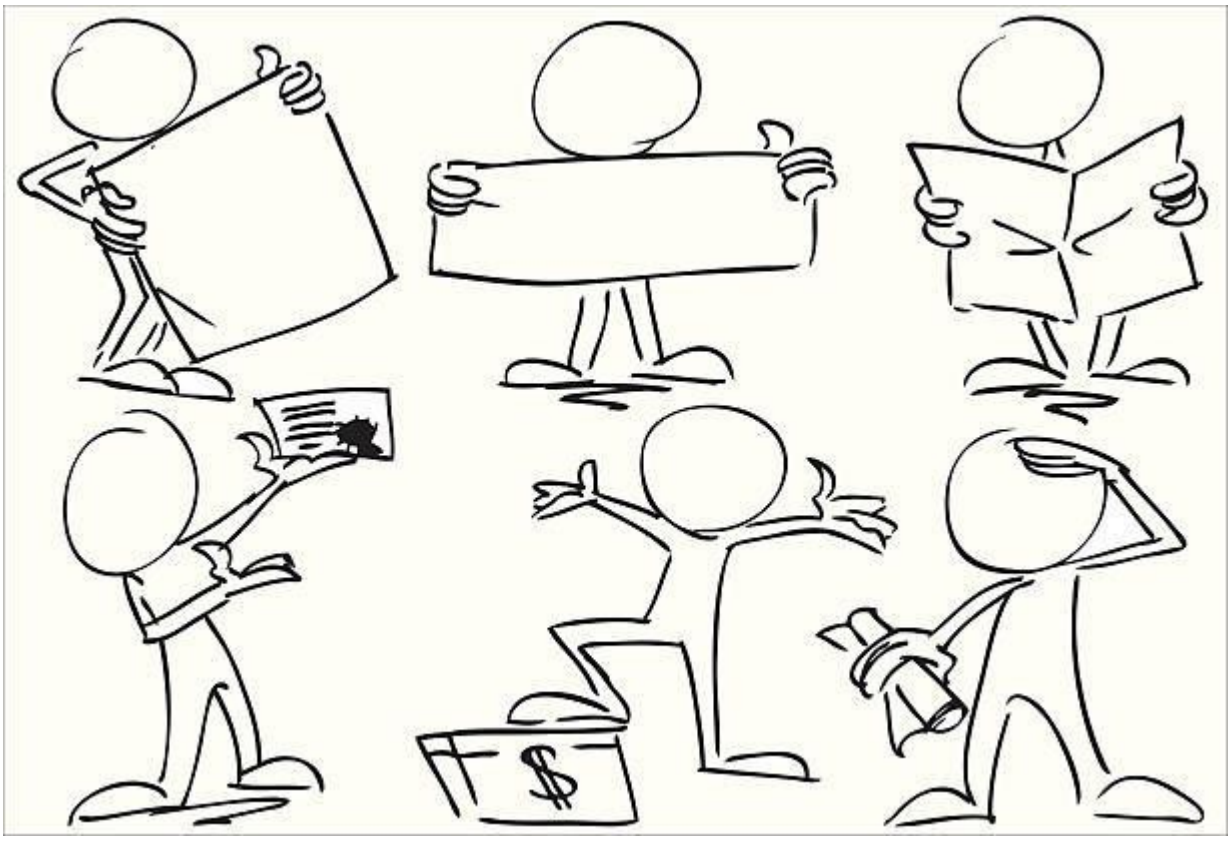

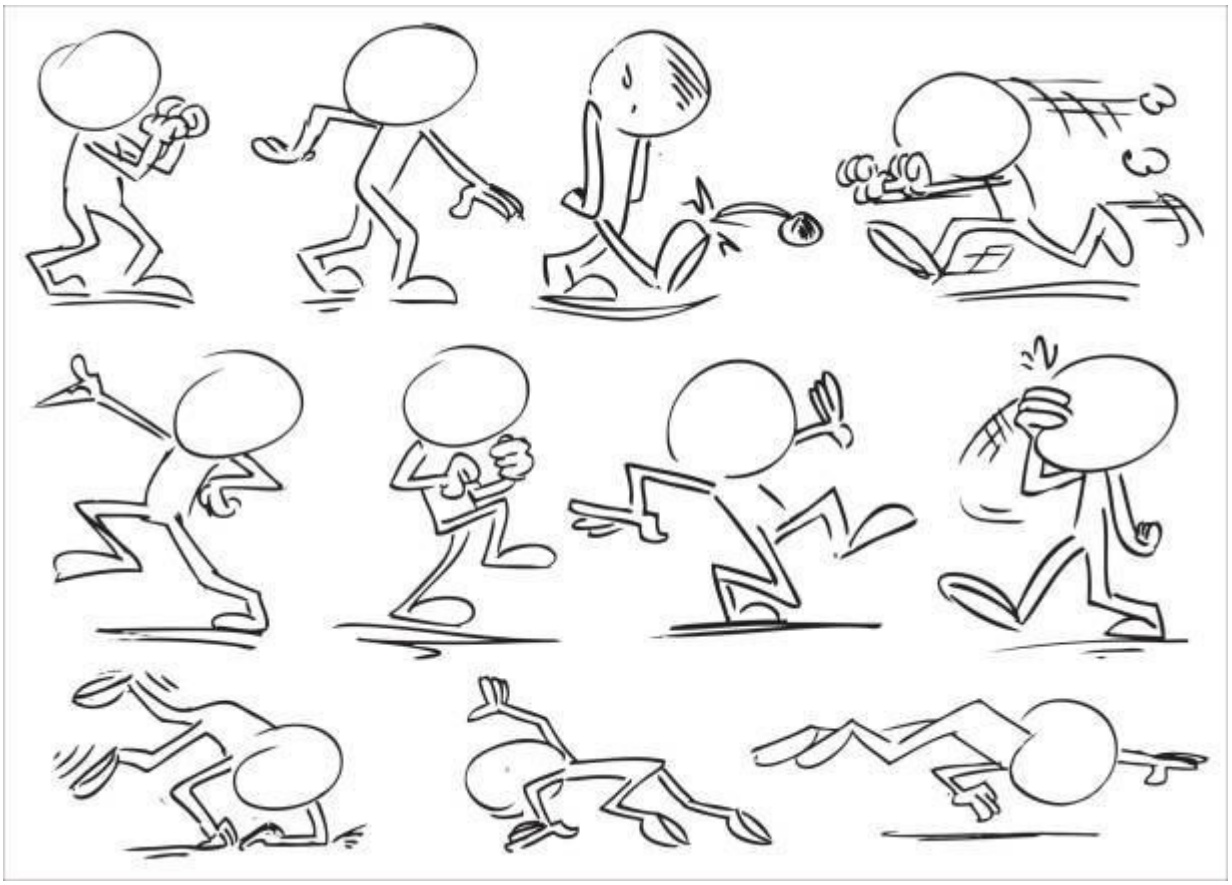

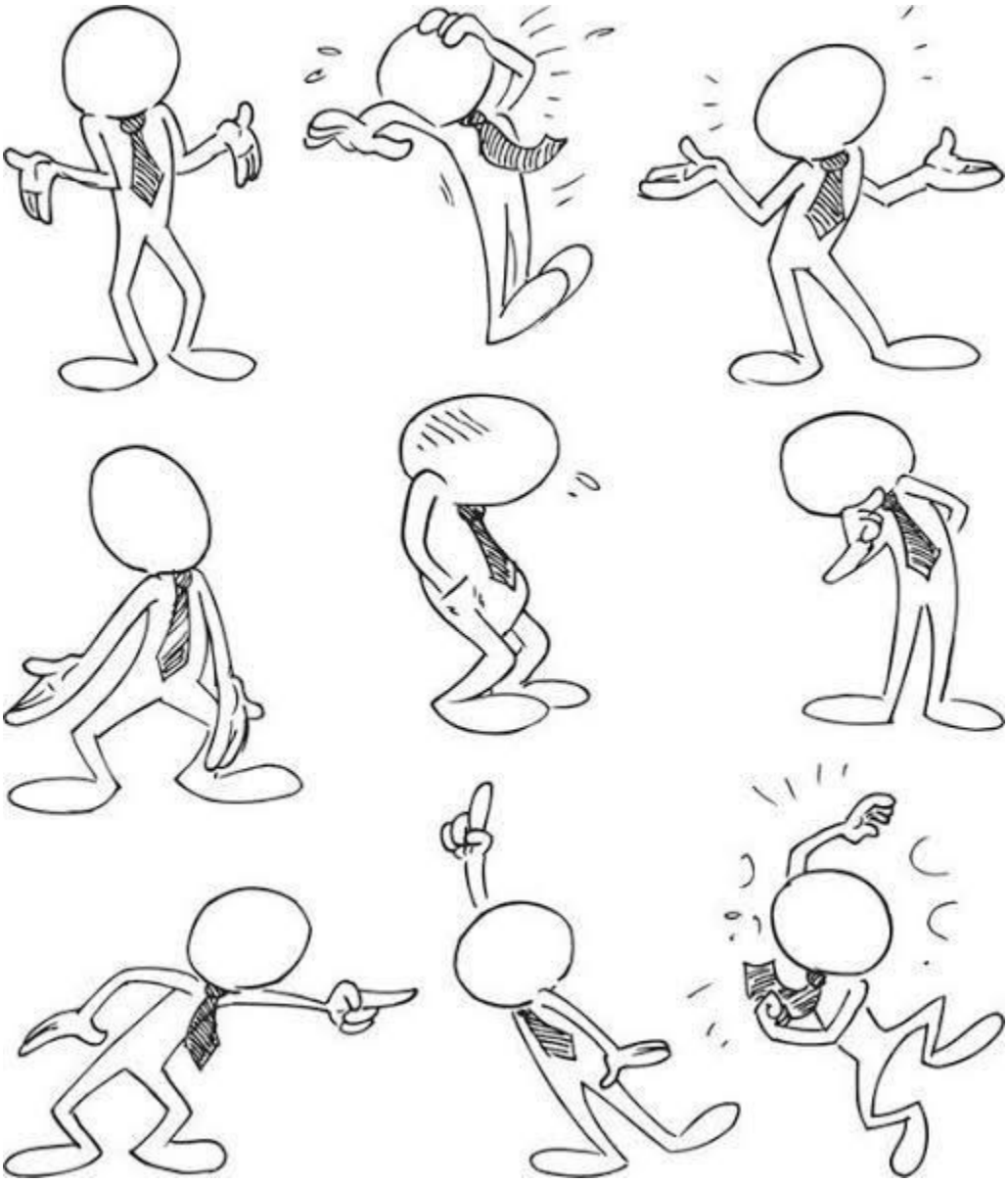

GOVERMENT
Bebing's Art
PEOPLE

The Madness of ILL-literacy

For decades, we have defined a "literate" student as someone who can read a book and write their name. We pat ourselves on the back when passing rates go up, believing we've equipped the next generation for the world. But look at the screens in their hands.

If a student can read a paragraph but cannot spot a lie, are they truly educated? If they can type a post but cannot distinguish between a paid advertisement and a cold hard fact, haven't we failed them?

The world is changing, but why is it that our classrooms are stuck in the mud? The world has evolved into the type of world where "truth" is not a thing of fact or reason; truth is just what everyone agrees on. Media illiteracy is what fueled such occurrence.

As a matter of fact, Stanford History Education Group (SHEG) conducted studies between 2015 and 2016, with further, ongoing research up to 2022. Researchers labeled students' ability to reason about information on the internet as **"bleak"**. The study found that 80% of middle schoolers could not distinguish between a news story and a sponsored advertisement.

However, Wineburg conducted a study in 2025 at Nebraska's Lincoln Public Schools, focusing on the impact of media literacy on students. High school social studies teachers taught lessons on "civic online reasoning," which significantly improved students' ability to evaluate the credibility of digital content. The findings of this study shows to support initiatives aimed at helping youth make informed decisions about online information.

We can no longer afford to wait. We cannot sit back and watch as the gap between information and wisdom grows wider. Schools must stop pretending that the digital world is a separate reality. It is the reality.

It is time to stop pretending that the system works. Schools cannot be measured by enrollment numbers or passing rates while children suffer. We need leaders who will take responsibility, communities that will demand change, and a system that actually follows through a promise. Every day we wait is another child left behind. If we cannot fix media illiteracy now, then we are not just failing our children…we are betraying the future of this nation.

COrrupted Testimony

The country was shaken by a video released by former congressman Zaldy Co, where he claimed that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and former House Speaker Martin Romualdez ordered a massive ₱100-billion budget insertion into the 2025 national budget.

Co described supposed phone calls, meetings, and even the handover of a “brown leather bag” containing a list of projects to be inserted. He alleged that Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman relayed the President’s instructions, that Romualdez confirmed these orders with the remark “What the President wants, he gets”.

Such claims, if true, reflect one of the gravest abuses of political power in recent history.

While any claim of budget abuse is a critical matter of public interest, the nation cannot afford to be blinded by sensationalism. After all, how can a person whose empire is built on government deals and public purses now claim to be an honest whistleblower?

Co presents himself as whistleblower acting for the nation’s good, yet the trajectory of his business empire tells a different story. His company, Sunwest, grew not because it was the best in the industry, but because of his proximity to the rich, powerful, and influential people.

Under the last administration, Sunwest received around ₱25 billion in government projects, and in the first two years of the current one, it gained another ₱13 billion. During the pandemic, it was even the 5th biggest recipient of government contracts, getting ₱1.32 billion.

These numbers obviously show a clear pattern: Co prospered from the same political system he is now attacking. That is why his claim that he handled billions in budget insertions but “took nothing” for himself is hard to believe.

In the end, the country deserves answers, real answers. Allegations involving billions of pesos cannot simply be ignored, but we cannot rely on claims made by someone whose own track record is built on the very system he now attacks.

The gravity of the accusation is clearly outweighed by the severely compromised credibility of the accuser himself.

Until Co can show solid proof, not just bold statements, the nation must stay cautious. Real accountability requires honesty, consistency, and clean motives, none of which Co has shown. We cannot allow a man with this kind of history to suddenly play the hero and dictate the narrative.

When Public Money Fails the Public

Corruption in the Philippines has deep roots…this isn't a modern invention; its systemic roots trace back to the Spanish colonial era , where practices like forced taxation (Tributo, Bandala) and selling public offices established widespread bribery and abuse, continuing through the American period with patronage and escalating significantly during the Marcos dictatorship and post-independence political dynasties, evolving from simple graft to complex schemes of illicit enrichment and power-sharing.

What's disheartening about all of these situations is that they've become so commonplace and normalized that hardly anyone notices. A September 2025 Pulse Asia survey revealed that 97% of Filipinos believe corruption is widespread in the government, and 59% agree that it is simply "a normal part of politics

When we create a system of normalized oppression, what kind of nation are we building for the future? A future that benefits the oppressor?

Should we always pretend that corruption is unavoidable and perfectly normal?

The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and other watchdogs estimate that the country loses between ₱700 billion and ₱1.4 trillion annually to corruption. Every peso squandered on corruption is money that could be put toward improving infrastructure, healthcare, education, agriculture, and pretty much anything else.

Public money isn't just "government cash." It is your money- our money. It comes from the hours you spend at work and the taxes we pay on literally everything we buy. When that money is wasted or stolen, it isn't just a mistake…it's a broken promise. The fact that this is all happening in front of our eyes, makes us look like utter fools. Fools that benefit them. Fools that kneel for them. Fools that cater for them, their kids, and their expensive lifestyles while our other kababayan's are barely getting through the day.

When we turn a blind eye on injustice, this makes it convenient for them. It creates a self-perpetuating cycle where dishonest practices become normalized, and the general public suffers the consequences.

Yes, corruption touches everyone, but it is also important to note that when the public suffers and public money fails, the most vulnerable bear the heaviest burden, as it directly attacks their ability to survive and thrive.

As a matter of fact, research from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has found that a worsening of corruption significantly reduces the income growth of the poorest 20% of the population annually.

We need to stop acting like this is "just business as usual." It is time for us to speak up with conviction and take what is rightfully ours. If we lack the conviction to demand better, we are complicit in that suffering. It is time to stop viewing public funds as "government money" and start treating it as the sacred trust it truly is.

ENDure, Philippines!

From Typhoon Yolanda in 2013 to the recent Typhoon Tino, the Philippines has remained a constant *suki* of destruction. Situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire and

directly within the path of the West Pacific typhoon belt, the country is geographically destined to face an average of 20 tropical cyclones every year. Through every typhoon, the nation stands, spreading a tired smile across its weary face…though at times, one might wonder if it stands by choice or by necessity.

PAGASA issued warnings for Bagyong Tino (international name Kalmaegi) in early November 2025, starting as early as November 2nd when the tropical storm entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Authorities and aid organizations, including the DILG and various LGUs, have implemented preparedness measures following the announcement of Typhoon Tino. Evacuation protocols and response teams were all made before Tino made landfall, yet the impact still remained devastating.

Recent reports reveal that 68 people are still missing in Negros Island alone. A staggering 53,651 houses were damaged, and 9,339 were completely destroyed. Search and rescue operations by the RDRRMC and the DILG continue relentlessly.

Typhoon Tino has also exposed deeper cracks in our systems. In Cebu, the controversial Monterrazas de Cebu development was found to be violating environmental laws, cutting down 734 trees without a permit, as confirmed by DENR regional director Laudemir Salac.

Sixty-eight. Fifty-three thousand six hundred fifty-one. Nine thousand three hundred thirty-nine. Seventy-four. Numbers that keep growing, statistics that keep piling up. These are not just numbers… they are harsh and cruel reminders of lives disrupted, infrastructures ruined, and futures taken away. With all of these laid out in front of us, should we really be insisting that we can handle this?

Yes, the Philippines, because of its geographical location, is certainly one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries, but geography alone is not destiny. It should never be an excuse.

As a matter of fact, Japan and the Philippines share the similarity of being island nations located along the Pacific Ring of Fire and the main typhoon belt of the Western Pacific. However, when it comes to comparing the two in disaster preparedness, the difference is dreadfully obvious. Japan’s decades of investment have created a culture where disaster prevention is the standard.

The two countries’ shared exposure to the same natural hazards from their similar geographical locations definitely highlights that vulnerability is not solely a matter of where you are, but how you prepare.

The Philippines does not need more resilience and natural disasters should never be a battle of endurance. The country is getting sick of it. What we actually need is readiness. What we need is prevention. It needs leaders and institutions that refuse to treat every disaster as an unavoidable and perfectly natural tragedy.

Of course, resiliency and endurance, by themselves, are not the enemy, but the way we wield them has become a convenient excuse for the people who should be responsible. This acts as a shield that masks inaction, a shield that favors them and them alone. This ultimately creates a narrative that asks people to endure instead of demanding systems that protect. We cannot keep glorifying survival while failing to question why we must keep surviving in the first place.

Dynasty Slayers or Dynasty Players?

Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III and Majority Leader Sandro Marcos have officially filed House Bill 6771, known as the Anti-Political Dynasty Bill. The proposed law aims to stop families from monopolizing political power by prohibiting relatives (usually up to the second degree of kinship) from holding office simultaneously or consecutively. This move seeks to finally follow the 1987 Constitution, which orders the state to stop political dynasties.

Both Dy and Marcos come from famous political families with decades of history in public service. In their bill, they argue that public office should be based on talent and hard work rather than family names. They claim this law is necessary to give ordinary Filipinos a fair chance to serve the country.

While the bill sounds like a win for democracy, it is hard to ignore the irony of the situation. Is it a genuine act of change, or is it a calculated move by the very people who benefit most from the current system? Seeing a "Marcos" lead the charge against dynasties feels like a lion leading a campaign for vegetarianism.

It is difficult to trust a solution written by the people who are the face of the problem.

For nearly 40 years, Congress has ignored the call to ban dynasties. Now that the top leaders are suddenly interested, one has to wonder if they are writing the rules in a way that protects their own interests while making it look like they are doing a favor for the public.

The push for the bill gained even more speed after President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. ordered Congress to make it a priority.

However, we must remain cautious about "reforms" led by the elite. If those in power are the ones defining what a "dynasty" is, they can easily create loopholes that favors them and them only.

A law is only as good as its intent, and the intent here feels heavily masked by political strategy.

In the end, the Filipino people deserve a fair system, but we must ask if this bill is a real door to change or just a new coat of paint on an old house. True reform should come from a desire for equality, not from a need to control the narrative of one's own family legacy.

FORCE-seen Future

What would you do if one day a foreign power used military force to remove your leader and his wife, then declared it had the right to shape your country's future…not because of an election, but because it decided it knew what was best for your nation?

That is the reality many Venezuelans face today after a powerful country carried out a military strike to seize Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife and bring them abroad to face charges.

From a geographical standpoint, the distance from the Philippines to Venezuela is about 17,682 kilometers—literally across the globe. So why should citizens of a country thousands of kilometers away care, especially when we already have our plates full with our own issues?

The answer is simple: when strong nations decide they can impose their will by force, international rules become meaningless. Sovereignty, the principle that every country has the right to govern itself, is under attack. If the world allows force, might, or power to matter more than law, then no country, big or small, is safe.

Here at home, we rely on the same rules to defend our rights, especially in disputes like the West Philippine Sea. We cannot allow power to become the law. If what happened in Venezuela becomes accepted as normal, then tomorrow, the Philippines or any other nation could be treated the same way.

This is why we must pay attention. Venezuela shows us what happens when the world turns a blind eye to aggression. It is a call for nations to stand firm on law, justice, and respect for sovereignty. If we ignore this, we risk seeing our own country's rights trampled by the same forces that crushed Venezuela's. Justice and strength must go together, or freedom anywhere is never truly safe.

No-Choice Buena

The Philippines is a country that eagerly looks forward to Christmas, known for having the world's longest Christmas season. Celebrations begin as early as September with the start of the "Ber" months, and the festive spirit extends through January.

Central to this extended celebration is the Noche Buena, the traditional midnight feast that is the cornerstone of the Filipino Christmas experience—a deeply rooted culture that symbolizes family, generosity, and gratitude.

Therefore, it is both absurd and incredibly impossible when Maria Cristina Aldeguer-Roque, the trade secretary, insist that a Filipino family can have a Noche Buena supper for merely P500.

If the government believes P500 is an acceptable budget for a national celebration, what does that reveal about the true value they place on the well-being of the working Filipino family?

For many, this suggestion is not only an extremely unhelpful and laughable piece of advice…it is also a clear and painful reminder of the growing disparity between the realities faced by ordinary Filipinos struggling to put food on the table and the disconnected perspectives of those in power.

The P500 claim is not only an incorrect budget assessment; it is an insult to the intelligence of the consumer and a blatant and pathetic attempt into gaslighting us that “enough” is normal.

As of today, the market prices paint a laughable image of the P500 budget fantasy. As a matter of fact, the price for 1 kilo of chicken in the Philippines generally ranges from approximately ₱200 to over ₱300. A 500g brick ham (the cheapest option) might cost around ₱160 to ₱230. A basic spaghetti package (pasta and sauce) costs around P75 to P150. A can of fruit cocktail cost P120-P150, while the creams costs approximately ₱70 to ₱105.

The sum for these basic necessities is already around P625 to P935. This leaves zero room for rice, condiments, beverages, bread, or other Filipino staples such as pandesal, quezo de bola, or even a single can of soda. The DTI's suggestion does not cover a whole meal…it barely even covers the ingredients for one dish.

When government officials, shielded by their salaries, publicly demand and insist a low standard, they effectively inform millions of working Filipinos—who are already dealing with rising inflation—that their economic hardship is bearable, or worse, normal. Does the DTI truly believe that a pre-packaged P500 dinner represents hope, rather than a harsh reminder of poverty? The Noche Buena is intended to be a moment of relief and clarity, not a last-minute math problem which deprives the celebration of its cultural and emotional meaning.

The government’s priority should not be to set the lowest possible budget, or normalize it, but to ensure an economic environment where P500 is pocket change, not a catastrophic family budget for the year's most important meal. The "No-Choice Buena" budget strips the Filipino family of their right to abundance and their freedom to celebrate with grace.

Quality Over Quantity: The Implementation of a Strengthened Curriculum

The revised Senior High School (SHS) curriculum, now in its successful pilot phase during the 2025-2026 school year, is proving to be nothing short of a revolutionary and brilliant move by the Department of Education (DepEd).

This isn't just a minor update…it's a fundamental change that has already drastically improved students' readiness for the next steps in their lives. We are seeing, in real-time, how this focused and flexible approach is creating a generation of more prepared and skilled graduates.

The previous curriculum in the Philippines was first implemented nationwide in the school year 2016-2017 as the final phase of the K to 12 program. The said curriculum was considered to be widely problematic, with students claiming that it not only took a toll on their physical well-being but also on their mental well-being.

As a matter of fact, according to a Pulse Asia survey commissioned by Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, only four out of 10 Filipinos are satisfied with the previous senior high school (SHS) program.

The decision to reduce the subjects from 15 to 5 is the single best decision of this reform. By focusing on essential knowledge (like effective communication, general math, and life and career skills), the curriculum has eliminated aspects that were previously redundant and are often considered “useless” by students.

What’s equally impressive is the push for flexibility through the new main pathways: Academic and TechPro. This feature creates a doorway option, with students being able to mix and match electives across the two main tracks. For example, a student in the academic track can take TechPro electives, or vice versa. This means that students are able to explore their interests in a way that doesn’t involve them changing their entire track. This fosters an environment where exploring doesn’t equate to failing.

When an education system prioritizes quality over quantity, it breeds a generation of students that are equipped with critical thinking, real-world skills, and lifelong learning.

These qualities and attributes are exactly what a country like the Philippines needs. It deserves the full, eager, and enthusias

READ-iculous Reality

For years, officials have been saying education is improving. They bring out these new programs, fancy reports, and “reforms” that are supposed to show progress…but if you actually go into a classroom, it’s a different story.

Students are moving on to the next grade without even learning the basics. Some can’t read well, some can’t write, and some can’t even do simple math, …but somehow they’re still being told, “Good job, you passed.” How is that progress? When finishing a grade is more important than actually understanding the material, what are we even achieving?

Recent statistics reveal that approximately 41.9% of students who enter Grade 1 do not complete their education by Grade 10. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) also reported that as of 2016, 3.8 million Filipinos, or 1 in 10 individuals aged 6 to 24, were not enrolled in any educational institution, with 53% of those coming from the poorest families.

In addition to this, the dropout rates have shown a concerning upward trajectory over the years. Between 2007 and 2013, the dropout rate for elementary students increased from 5.99% to 6.81%, while the secondary level dropout rate rose from 7.45% to 7.82% during the same period.

These are not just numbers. They are voices we are failing to hear. They are potential wasted. They are children left behind because the system is not catching up. Can we really say we are doing enough? Can we sit back and watch the gap grow wider?

Every child who falls behind is not just a statistic, they are someone’s dream, someone’s future, someone’s hope….and hope is something we cannot afford to lose. Hope is what built this nation.

It is time to stop pretending that the system works. Schools cannot be measured by enrollment numbers or passing rates while children suffer. We need leaders who will take responsibility, communities that will demand change, and a system that actually follows through a promise. Every day we wait is another child left behind. If we cannot fix education now, then we are not just failing our children…we are betraying the future of this nation.

CLASS-tastrophe: When ARAL Meets Reality

The Department of Education proudly presents the ARAL Program — the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning initiative — as the long-awaited answer to the country’s learning crisis. Remedial classes, targeted instruction, extended learning hours. On paper, it sounds noble. On paper, it sounds like salvation.

But in a country where education reforms often look better in press releases than in classrooms, one must ask: is ARAL truly recovery, or merely another carefully packaged alibi?

Let us be honest. ARAL exists because the system failed first. Years of pandemic disruption, overcrowded classrooms, underpaid teachers, and automatic promotion have created a generation of students who advanced without understanding. Children who reached high school unable to read fluently. Learners who passed math without mastering subtraction. This is not a learning gap. This is an educational fracture.

ARAL promises to “catch up” those left behind. Yet how do you heal a wound you refuse to fully acknowledge? How do you repair a system that still measures success by enrollment numbers and completion rates instead of comprehension?

The program offers remediation, but remediation without reform is only temporary relief. A bandage on a broken bone.

Teachers are once again asked to do more with less. More hours. More responsibilities. More miracles. All while classrooms remain overcrowded, learning materials insufficient, and compensation painfully disconnected from the gravity of their role. We call them heroes, but treat them like expendable resources.

And what about the students? Are we truly helping them, or simply rushing them forward so statistics look better by graduation season? Recovery is not about speed. It is about mastery. It is not about finishing lessons. It is about finally understanding them.

If ARAL becomes just another checkbox — another compliance program to satisfy reports and donors — then we are not rescuing learners. We are recycling failure.

The truth is uncomfortable: the learning crisis did not begin with the pandemic, and it will not end with ARAL. It was born from decades of neglect, politicized reforms, and the dangerous belief that passing is more important than learning.

Education is not a factory line. Children are not products to be rushed through defective systems.

If the ARAL Program is sincere, then it must go beyond remedial worksheets and weekend classes. It must come with smaller class sizes, better teacher support, honest assessments, and the courage to admit when students are not ready to move forward.

Recovery is not pretending the wound is healed. Recovery is doing the painful work of rebuilding what was broken.

Because if ARAL fails — if it becomes just another slogan in the long list of “solutions” that solved nothing — then we are not just losing time.

We are losing an entire generation.

And this time, there will be no program left to blame.

INTELLI-LIE-gence

They call it the future. Artificial Intelligence — the miracle machine that writes our essays, drives our cars, diagnoses our illnesses, and now, quietly, begins to think for us. Governments praise it. Corporations worship it. Schools rush to integrate it. And society applauds, convinced that progress has finally arrived.

But in our excitement, one uncomfortable question remains almost untouched: are we building intelligence…or surrendering it?

AI promises efficiency, accuracy, and convenience. It grades papers in seconds, summarizes books in minutes, and answers questions before we finish typing them. But when a machine can think faster than a student, what happens to thinking itself? When answers are instant, where does struggle — the birthplace of understanding — go?

We celebrate productivity, yet ignore dependency.

Already, students submit essays they never wrote. Workers rely on systems they do not understand. Decisions that once required judgment are now delegated to algorithms trained on data we cannot fully inspect and biases we pretend do not exist. We trust the output, not because it is correct, but because it is confident.

And confidence, as history has taught us, is often the mask of error.

AI is not neutral. It learns from us — our prejudices, our inequalities, our blind spots — and then reflects them back with mathematical precision. A biased society produces biased machines, only faster, wider, and harder to challenge. When discrimination is automated, injustice becomes efficient.

Who is accountable when an algorithm denies a loan, rejects a job application, mislabels a face, or spreads a lie? Not the machine. Not the data. Responsibility dissolves into code, and blame becomes conveniently untraceable.

In classrooms, AI is sold as a learning partner. In reality, it risks becoming a thinking replacement. Why analyze when a bot can explain? Why write when a program can compose? Why question when answers are already packaged and polished?

We are raising a generation fluent in prompts but fragile in reasoning.

The danger is not that AI will become smarter than humans. The danger is that humans will slowly choose to become less thoughtful than machines.

Progress without wisdom is not advancement. It is acceleration toward uncertainty.

Yes, AI can heal, teach, and discover. But without limits, ethics, and education, it can also deceive, manipulate, and control. Technology does not decide the future — the values behind it do.

The question, then, is not whether AI will change the world.

It already has.

The question is whether we will remain intelligent enough to guide it…or whether, in our hunger for convenience, we will quietly trade judgment for automation, responsibility for speed, and freedom for comfort.

Because when machines begin to think for us, the real crisis is not artificial intelligence.

It is artificial wisdom.

We are not teaching intelligence.

We are teaching dependence.

We talk about pollution as if it were an inconvenience. A little smoke here. A little plastic there. A river slightly darker than usual. We complain, we post pictures, we sigh — and then we move on.

Meanwhile, the country is slowly poisoning itself.

Pollution is no longer an environmental issue. It is a public health emergency disguised as normal life.

Every day, millions of Filipinos inhale air thick with exhaust, factory smoke, and burning garbage. We drink water laced with chemicals, bathe in rivers that double as dumping grounds, and eat fish raised in ecosystems saturated with waste. And yet we still pretend this is simply “part of development.”

Development, apparently, now means learning how to survive in filth.

The most dangerous part is not the smoke or the trash.

It is the silence.

Factories continue to spew toxins while inspection reports magically remain clean. Plastic floods our seas while corporations sell “eco-friendly” labels that dissolve faster than their accountability. Open dumps operate beside communities, and when children start coughing blood, officials offer sympathy instead of solutions.

We have mastered the art of looking away.

The poor, as always, pay the highest price. Informal settlers breathe the dirtiest air. Coastal communities eat the most contaminated fish. Children in polluted neighborhoods grow up with damaged lungs before they learn their first multiplication table. Pollution does not affect everyone equally. It targets those who have the least power to escape it.

And what does the government offer?

Cleanup drives with cameras. Tree-planting ceremonies with speeches. Plastic bans that exist only on paper. Grand slogans about sustainability, while landfills overflow, waterways rot, and enforcement officers mysteriously disappear when violators write big enough checks.

We celebrate “resilience” again — the same word used when floods drown homes, when storms destroy cities, when systems collapse.

Endure. Adjust. Survive.

Never question why we are forced to endure in the first place.

Pollution is not an accident. It is a decision.

A decision to prioritize profit over lungs.
Convenience over life.
Economic growth over human survival.

And every time we accept dirty air as normal, toxic water as unavoidable, and plastic-filled beaches as “just the way things are,” we become accomplices.

Because pollution does not only kill slowly.

It teaches a nation to accept being harmed.

The real tragedy is not that our rivers are dying.

It is that we are watching it happen…
and calling it progress.

NEW CURRICULUM

or the first time in years, Philippine education did something radical.

It stopped pretending.

The strengthened Senior High School curriculum did not arrive with empty slogans or recycled promises. It arrived with a decision this system has long feared to make: cut the excess, expose the weakness, and finally admit that more subjects never meant more learning.

Fifteen classes did not produce smarter students.
They produced exhausted ones.

Burnout was normalized. Confusion was tolerated. Mastery was optional. We called it “rigor,” but it was nothing more than educational clutter — a system so obsessed with quantity that it forgot what education was for in the first place.

Now, the noise is gone.

Five core subjects. Clear foundations. Real focus.

This is not simplification. This is precision.

Education is not a competition to see how much suffering students can endure. It is a process of building thinking, discipline, and skill. By stripping away redundancy, the new curriculum finally returns power to what matters: understanding.

Even more dangerous — in the best way — is the flexibility between Academic and TechPro tracks.

For decades, we punished curiosity.

Choose wrong at sixteen and you were trapped. Shift interests and you were labeled a failure. Explore too much and the system closed its doors. Now, students can cross tracks, test limits, and build identities without burning their future behind them.

That is not reform.

That is liberation.

In classrooms, something rare is happening.

Students are no longer drowning.
Teachers are no longer racing.
Learning is no longer survival.

Less pressure. More clarity. Fewer subjects. Stronger thinking.

And suddenly, education starts to resemble its true purpose.

This matters more than we admit.

In a country poisoned by misinformation, political noise, and digital chaos, we do not need graduates overloaded with facts. We need citizens trained to reason, question, and decide. The strengthened curriculum does not promise miracles — but it finally arms students with something more powerful than diplomas.

Judgment.

Of course, danger remains. Without training, funding, and honest implementation, even the best reform can rot into another hollow program. But for once, the design itself is not the problem.

For once, the system chose courage.

It chose focus over spectacle.
Mastery over memorization.
Future over façade.

And in a nation where education has long been a battlefield of broken promises, this reform sends a rare and defiant message:

Progress does not begin with more.

It begins with better.